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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK115//
TO JERRY BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY
ZEM
~~T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH43467~~

TOHAK115

DOS, DIA, JCS
reviews completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

NOVEMBER 26, 1974
THE PRESIDENT
HENRY A. KISSINGER
INFORMATION ITEMS

ETHIOPIA: IN THE WAKE OF THE EXECUTIONS OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS BY THE RULING MILITARY COUNCIL, IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHAT FORCES ARE IN CONTROL IN ETHIOPIA. THE SUMMARY NATURE OF THE EXECUTIONS SUGGESTS A MORE RADICAL LEADERSHIP THAN HERETOFORE, ONE THAT MAY NOW ABANDON GRADUALIST TACTICS AND STEP UP THE PACE OF THE REVOLUTION. A KEY UNRESOLVED QUESTION THAT WILL BEAR ON THIS PACE WILL BE THE REACTION OF THE REST OF THE MILITARY TO THE KILLINGS AND THEIR PERPETRATORS.

OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL BE THE FOREIGN POLICY STANCE OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP. THEY HAVE YET TO TIP THEIR HAND, OTHER THAN TO STRESS SUPPORT FOR A POLICY OF STRICT NONALIGNMENT, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WILL NOT CONTINUE THE ESSENTIALLY PRO-AMERICAN STANCE FOLLOWED BY PREDECESSOR GOVERNMENTS.

IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS TAKING A "GO-SLOW" APPROACH ON ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND HAS INSTRUCTED OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS TO EXERCISE A CERTAIN CAUTION IN CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE RULING MILITARY COUNCIL.

ARGENTINE ANTITERRORIST EFFORT: THE DRIVE BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES TO STAMP OUT LEFTIST GUERRILLAS APPEARS TO BE GAINING MOMENTUM. PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE POLICE, ACTING UNDER A STATE OF SIEGE THAT GIVES THEM BROAD SEARCH AND ARREST POWERS, ARE SCORING SUCCESSES IN A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO IMMOBILIZE THE CLANDESTINE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. LAST WEEK A LARGE NUMBER OF EXTREMISTS WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) WERE CAPTURED IN CORDOBA, AND ARMS CACHES HAVE BEEN FOUND THERE AND ELSEWHERE. IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMY AND POLICE PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE PROGRESS AND RECENT SUCCESSES IN THE COUNTERTERRORIST PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE TERRORISTS HAVE

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WITHSTOOD REVERSALS IN THE PAST AND ARE PROBABLY STILL CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

INDOCHINA SITUATION: THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DRIVE TO RECAPTURE MO TAU MOUNTAIN OVERLOOKING THE SOUTHERN APPROACHES TO HUE HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED AND IS NOW SET TO BEGIN TODAY. THE OPERATION, TARGETED AGAINST AN ENEMY FORCE ESTIMATED AT FOUR BATTALION-SIZE, WILL BE SUPPORTED WITH AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES. HEAVY FIGHTING COULD ERUPT IF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY AND RANGER TASK FORCE SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE THE TENACIOUS COMMUNIST FORCE OR IF ENEMY RESUPPLY ROUTES ARE SEVERED. COMMUNIST-INITIATED MILITARY ACTION CONTINUES TO TAPER OFF IN THE NORTHERN DELTA PROVINCES AND NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN REPORTED ELSEWHERE.

CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND AIRCRAFT IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE REPORTEDLY KILLED OVER 100 KHMER COMMUNISTS IN FIGHTING TEN MILES EAST OF PHNOM PENH. TEN MILES SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, OTHER GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE MANEUVERING TO RETAKE POSITIONS ABANDONED IN THE FACE OF INSURGENT GROUND ATTACKS OVER THE WEEKEND. IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, A LARGE TRUCK CONVOY LOADED WITH RICE YESTERDAY MADE THE RUN SOUTH FROM BATTAMBANG CITY TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG CHHNANG. RIVER CONVOYS WILL MOVE THE RICE TO PHNOM PENH VIA THE TONLE SAP RIVER.

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